

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 18, 2004**

**560 J Street, Suite 395  
Sacramento, California**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Gay Timmons  
Fred Rappleye  
Bill Reichle  
Kim Dietz  
Joseph Hall  
Timothy O'Keefe  
Sean Swezey  
Rick Melnicoe  
Deanna Marquart  
Diane Cooner  
Stacy Carlsen

**CDFA REPRESENTATIVES**

Steve Mauch  
Ray Green  
Susan Shelton

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jake Lewin, CCOF  
Sue TenEyck, Taurus Consulting  
John Foster, Quality Assurance Int'l  
Claudia Reid, SAWG  
Patricia J. Smith, Stellar Certification

**ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Gay Timmons called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2004 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Kim Dietz moved to approve the February 10, 2004 meeting minutes as submitted. Sean Swezey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 3: CHAIR REPORT – GAY TIMMONS**

Prior to the committee meeting, Gay Timmons met with Steve Mauch, and CDFA Undersecretary, Chuck Ahlem. Gay expressed the industry's desire to protect the integrity of the organic industry as GMO farming grows in California. CDFA has agreed to facilitate dialog between all interested parties in order to develop ways to best manage various issues.

**ITEM 4: VICE CHAIR REPORT**

The Committee Vice Chair had no report at this time.

## **ITEM 5: CDFA REPORT – RAY GREEN**

### Training

Ray Green reported that training is almost complete. Friday, May 21, 2004, in Kern County, will be the last training session. Approximately 400 people in eleven sessions have completed training.

### Livestock Issues

USDA has issued livestock directives. USDA will be providing training to State Organic Programs on interpreting and applying the new rules.

### Training Summary – Future Plans

Ray is planning on having one-on-one training with various counties. His first training will be June 4, 2004.

### Cost Share Update

CDFA has processed and completed 745 applications, reimbursing over \$310,800. There are currently 56 pending applications. The Federal government will soon be releasing more money into the cost share program. A letter to industry will be sent stating that those who were reimbursed this last year will be eligible again next year.

### Miscellaneous

The Fleck TV grant has been received and accepted for consideration by the Federal/State Marketing Improvement Program. They have received a total of 86 grant requests. A decision should be made around July.

The mapping project is moving forward. The program is no longer in development with UC Davis, but is now held by CDFA. It is expected to be available to the public within a year.

## **ITEM 6: DHS REPORT – PAT KENNELLY**

Pat Kennelly was unable to attend this meeting. No report was given. The following information was sent by Pat to include in these minutes:

1. DHS currently has 648 registered organic firms.
2. DHS received and investigated one complaint regarding misbranded organic soy yogurt. The complaint was substantiated and the firm was notified of the violation. The firm promptly brought their labels into compliance.
3. DHS Inspections of registered organic firms has not uncovered any significant violations.
4. DHS inspections of unregistered organic firms have uncovered not only registration violations, but lack of certification and handling system plans. Firms found in violation have initiated registration and certification.

#### **ITEM 7: ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

Gay will email the subcommittee members to set up an agenda and meeting time.

#### **ITEM 8: USDA SCOPE CHANGE – LETTER FROM COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATURE**

A discussion ensued regarding the recent USDA scope document change. The scope document lists products under National Organic Program jurisdiction. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact this will have on the word “organic” as a marketing tool.

#### **ITEM 9: AB 1335 – LETTER TO THE LEGISLATURE**

AB 1335 will not be going forward, the sponsors have decided they do not want to pursue this legislation.

#### **ITEM 10: GE WHITE PAPER – FINAL DRAFT PRESENTED FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

As the final draft is incomplete, discussion regarding the white paper will be held for the next committee meeting. Gay Timmons will distribute the most recent draft to all the committee members.

#### **ITEM 11: MEMBER REPORTS**

Kim Dietz announced that USDA's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is currently seeking nominations to fill five vacancies. Her term is ending as a member of that board.

Kim also stated that the NOSB is hearing petitions regarding the committee materials recommendation list. See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOSBCmmnts404Mtg.htm> for more information.

Sean Swezey handed out an agenda for the upcoming California Conference on Biological Control. Sean will be presenting, as will Ray Green. This conference will be covering many issues regarding biological control and organic production.

#### **ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS**

The committee will meet again in August in Salinas.

**ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Ray Green, Supervisor  
Organic Program  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services